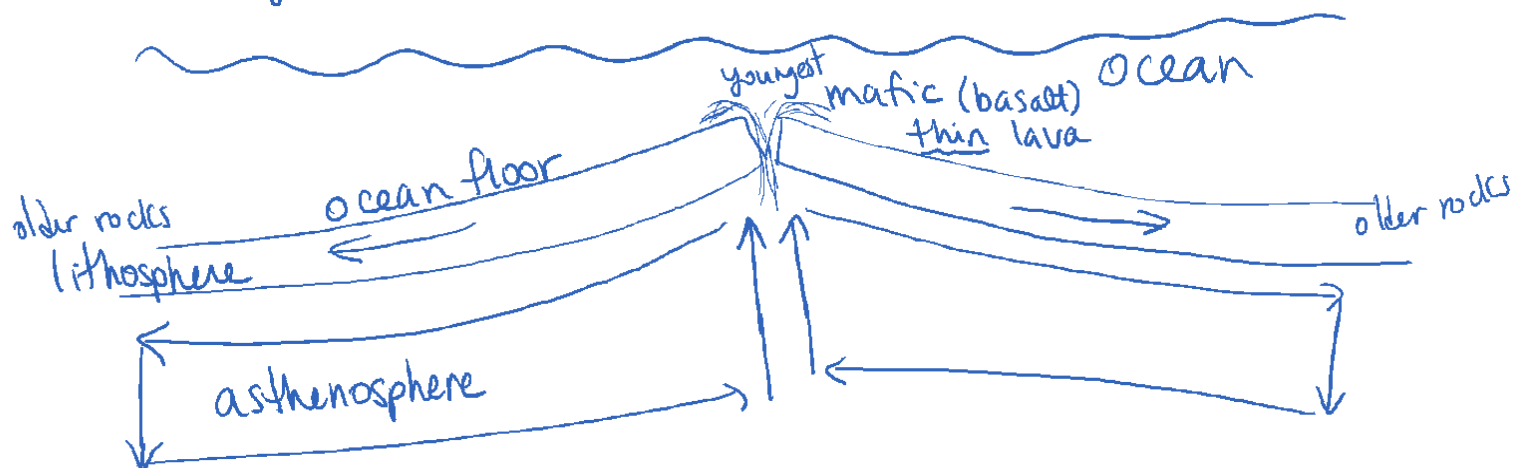


Sea Floor Spreading

May 15, 2015 9:11 AM

- A. - plates tend to diverge on the sea floor more often because ocean crust is thinner
- at diverging boundaries, magma rises up to become brand new, young rock (youngest rocks on the sea floor)



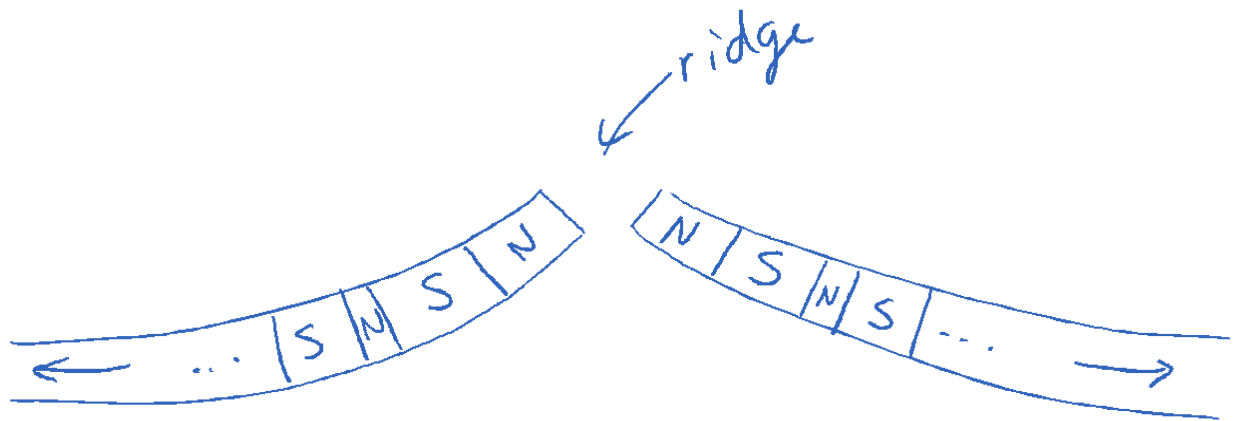
ex Mid-Atlantic ridge
Juan de Fuca ridge

B. Magnetism at Ridges

- while lava is liquid, magnetic particles in it point to the N. pole
- once the lava solidifies/cool the particles are stuck pointing that way: the magnetism is preserved (it is like having fossil evidence of where the N. pole was at that time.)

C. Magnetic Stripes

- we can measure the direction of the rocks' magnetism: we see stripes
- the stripes show us that the N and S poles have switched spots through \oplus 's history (pole reversals)



- notice symmetrical pattern on both sides forms as ridge diverges and lava flows up and onto each side